ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Nova Scotia Alcoholism Research Foundation

1962 - 1963

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TO HIS HONOR,

MAJOR GENERAL
THE HONOURABLE E. C. PLOW, C.B.E., D.S.O., C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Sir:

I beg to present herewith the report of the Nova Scotia Alcoholism Research Foundation.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

RICHARD A. DONAHOE,
Minister of Public Health

RICHARD A. DONAHOE, LL.B., Q.C.,

Minister of Public Health

Sir:

I beg to offer herewith the Report of the Alcoholism Research Foundation for the year 1962-1963.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR KELSALL,

Chairman

NOVA SCOTIA ALCOHOLISM RESEARCH FOUNDATION

1962 - 1963

MEMBERS:

Arthur Kelsall, B.S.A., F.C.I.C., F.A.I.C., D.C.L.,
Annapolis Royal, Chairman.

M. Grace Wambolt, B.A., LL.B., Q.C.,
Halifax. Vice-Chairman.

Austin Churchill, Esq.,
Yarmouth.

Ross Eaton, B.A., B.D., D.D.,
Port Williams.

Angus Norman MacDonald, B.A.,
Glace Bay.

Mrs. John W. MacLeod,
New Glasgow.

Clyde S. Marshall, M.D., C.M.,
Halifax.

Perry Ronayne, Esq.,
Dartmouth.

Harold L. Scammell, M.D., C.M., (Appointed October 4, 1962)
Halifax.

Bruce H. Wallace, Esq., (Appointed October 4, 1962)
Dartmouth.

STAFF:

Harold L. Scammell, M.D., C.M.,
Halifax. Executive Director. (Resigned July 20, 1962)

J. Murray Snow, M.Sc., M.D., C.M.,
Halifax. Executive Director. (Appointed September 4, 1962)

Diana M. Rudolph,
Halifax. Secretary.

The Legislature in Session in 1962 received the Final Report of the Alcoholism Research Commission and approved of it to the extent of putting it in funds to an amount necessary to make a start on its recommended program. At the same time several amendments were made to the Act, transforming it from a Commission for inquiry, research and recommendation into a Foundation which would in future combine research with a program of activity along the lines detailed in the Report relevant to education, treatment and rehabilitation. The members of the Alcoholism Research Commission at that time were recommissioned as members of the Alcoholism Research Foundation.

One of the first duties of the Foundation was to provide By-laws as empowered by the Act. These were carefully drawn up and duly approved.

Because of some special qualifications for the task, the Executive Director, Doctor H. L. Scammell, was released for a part of three months to assist the Commissioner appointed to enquire into certain matters relating to the Attending Staff of the Victoria General Hospital. The program of the Foundation was neither impaired nor impeded by this assignment.

The Foundation considered that one of its first tasks was to set up a Clinic for both treatment and educational purposes in the City of Halifax. It was obvious, as outlined in the Report, that this might be located in proximity to the hospital area and the Dalhousie University Medical School. Sites in this area are not readily available but after considerable search and the helpful co-operation of Dalhousie University a building has become available on a rental basis which can be modified to the needs of a Clinic on a temporary plan. This building will provide office space for the Foundation as well as Clinic facilities. It would be hoped that eventually the Clinic could be integrated more closely in situation and operation with a large general hospital. Meanwhile the Foundation is in search of suitable persons to form a nucleus staff for the Clinic and, as envisaged in the Report, this is no easy task. However, progress is being made and confidence is felt that this facility will be in operation in the near future. Its activities will go hand in hand with an education program of a special nature directed toward those groups or individuals who frequently come in contact with the alcoholic.

In July, 1962, the Executive Director, Doctor Harold L. Scammell, found it necessary to resign on account of ill health. It is hoped that later his knowledge and experience may be available to the

Foundation on a part-time basis. He had been in the Public Service of the Province for twenty-seven years in medical and medical-executive capacities and came to the Foundation from the Workmen's Compensation Board to which he was Executive Assistant and, for a time, Chairman. His extensive and varied background in the service of the Province as well as a lengthy connection with Dalhousie University rendered him particularly valuable in the research and planning necessary to inaugurate a program suitable to the needs of Nova Scotia.

The Foundation wishes to record its sincere regret of the serious illness of one of its members, Reverend Ross Eaton, D.D. It is hoped that Doctor Eaton will in time be able to resume his duties. He brought to the deliberations of the Commission an enlightened knowledge of the many problems facing it, and his contribution has been extensive and effective.

Mr. Bruce H. Wallace of Dartmouth and Doctor Harold L. Scammell of Halifax have been made members of the Foundation. With these appointments the Foundation now has ten members which is the maximum number prescribed by Statute.

To succeed Doctor Scammell as Executive Director, the Foundation has been fortunate in securing the services of Doctor J. Murray Snow of Halifax. Doctor Snow preceeded his medical career with one of research in Biochemistry and service in this field with the Federal Government. He has conducted, since graduation, a successful general practice and the Foundation feels that his background and experience admirably suit him for the duties of his position.

Doctor Snow has been required to pursue as thorough a course of training as possible relevant to the treatment of alcoholism. To this end he has already visited several clinics in the Province of Ontario and plans to obtain further familiarization with the subject in the Western Provinces and in the United States. He will subsequently be required to actively participate as a physician in patient management during the early phases of operation of the Pilot Clinic in Halifax.

The Nova Scotia Alcoholism Research Foundation is a member agency of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs and has recently become a member of the newly organized national program, the Canadian Foundation on Alcoholism. These affiliations, particularly the latter, should be valuable sources of aid with the further development of our active program in the Province of Nova Scotia.